



## Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

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**Person ID:** 94890575

**County of Child's Residence:** BRAZORIA

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 0 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

**Date of Death:** 04/09/2018

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entitled to the child's possession.

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**Child's Name:** Salter,Isaiah

**Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:**

**Intake Date(s):** 4/9/2018

**Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The deceased child became unresponsive after sleeping prone on the parents bed. Medical treatment was delayed for over an hour from the time the deceased child was found unresponsive and the time the deceased child's parents arrived at the hospital with the deceased child. It was reported that the father did not do anything to revive the child but instead was on the phone for some forty minutes while the child was unresponsive. During the investigation, the deceased child's father was interviewed and indicated he had bathed the deceased child earlier in the evening, gave him some medication for teething and then placed the deceased child prone on his and the mother's bed. The deceased child's sibling was asleep in another room. The deceased child's father came in later to check on the deceased child and discovered the deceased child had labored breathing, yet placed the deceased child back in the same position on the bed after treating the child's teething pain. The father then left the room and talked on the phone for over an hour before checking on the deceased child again. At this point the father found the deceased child unresponsive on the bed. Once the father found the deceased child unresponsive, he grabbed the child and ran for the door, allegedly falling in the living room and causing injury to the child. The father ran outside with the child right when the mother was returning home from work. The deceased child's sibling was taken to a neighbor by the mother, so the deceased child could be taken to the hospital. The father and the mother delayed medical treatment by driving to the hospital rather than contacting emergency services, as well as by choosing to go to a hospital that was not the closest one to the home.

**Investigation Findings:**

The mother confirmed that she was at work the evening the deceased child died. While she initially supported the father's account of events, the mother later admitted the deceased child had not been breathing for approximately 30 minutes by the time she arrived home. It was also determined that the father smoked marijuana while caring for the children and the parents engaged in domestic violence around the children. The mother knew that the father was taking marijuana while caring for the children.

It was learned that the deceased child sustained multiple contusions to his head, face, chest, and back, as well as 38 rib fractures. According to the medical examiner, it was possible the contusions were caused by the fall and by CPR attempts. None of the injuries were considered significant enough to cause death. The final cause and manner of death were undetermined. An assessment was completed by the Forensic Assessment Center Network and concluded that while the physical injuries were not significant enough to cause the deceased child's death, there was concern for physical abuse, particularly regarding the rib fractures. Of the 38 rib fractures 10 were acute and 28 were remote in time and in stages of healing. According to the physician's review, while it was possible the 10 acute fractures were caused by CPR, this was considered unlikely based on the location of the fractures. It was the physician's assessment that all 38 rib fractures were likely due to physical abuse. The physician also concluded that it was possible the deceased child might have survived if medical treatment had been sought timely by the parents. The criminal investigation remains open at the time the investigation was closed and no criminal charges had been filed at that time.

The deceased child's mother and father were confirmed for the medical neglect of the deceased child which led to the child's death. The child was unresponsive for a significant amount of time and the parents did not call for emergency services. The mother and father were confirmed for the neglectful supervision of the deceased child and the deceased child's sibling. The father smoked marijuana while being the primary caregiver of the children. Additionally the parents engaged in domestic violence in front of the children. The mother and father of the deceased child were confirmed for physical abuse of the deceased child. The extent of the child's injuries show that the child had various fractures that were not attributable to a recent fall and CPR.

The initial Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment was completed on 4/11/2018 with a finding of safe with a plan. The final Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment was completed on 8/6/2018 with a risk level of high.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:****Other Services:**

Counseling and Evaluation were provided these were court ordered for both parents. The parents have initiated some of their services.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

The surviving child was removed from the home and placed with a relative. This placement lasted until the surviving child was placed in a foster home.

**If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:**

NA

## **Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:**

**Intake Date(s):** 11/19/2016

## **Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The department received a report that law enforcement was called to the residence due to the deceased child's father allowing two minors to come into his residence and smoke marijuana. A marijuana glass pipe with residue in it was found in the home. One of the teenagers showed law enforcement a gram of marijuana in the closet. The deceased child's father denied knowledge of this marijuana and the other teen in the home admitted the marijuana was hers. Law enforcement returned the teenagers to their homes. The deceased child's father was not arrested due to being the only caregiver for the deceased child's sibling at the time.

## **Investigation Findings:**

The deceased child's father was interviewed and stated he had used marijuana one time since completing his outpatient drug treatment. The father denied allowing the teenagers to smoke in the apartment. The father stated he was watching one of the teenagers as a favor to that child's parent, and the teen invited another friend over to the apartment. The father stated he was outside on the patio when he smelled marijuana. The father stated he went inside and told the teens to stop smoking immediately as he could get into trouble with Child Protective Services (CPS). The father submitted to a urinalysis drug test and tested negative for all substances. The father agreed to participate in relapse classes through his open Family Based Safety Services case.

The allegation of neglectful supervision of the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's father was unable to determine, as the father tested negative for any drugs and denied the information provided by law enforcement, however he did admit to smoking marijuana one time since completing drug treatment.

11/22/2016 Initial SDM Safety Assessment was Safe

12/1/2016 Risk Assessment was High Risk Level due to the previous investigation, the deceased child's sibling's age, the open Family Based Safety Services stage, the father's continued drug use, and the history of domestic violence in the home.

The case was transferred to Family Based Safety Services.

## **Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

### **Case Action:**

### **Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

### **Other Services:**

Family Based Safety Services were being provided by the agency and the deceased child's father agreed to continue these services.

### **Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

The deceased child's father was participating in Family Based Safety Services in order to further eliminate any risk factors of abuse or neglect to the deceased child's sibling.

## **Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:**

**Intake Date(s):** 5/23/2016

## **Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

A report was received that the deceased child's mother and father were involved in a domestic violence altercation in which they pushed each other and tried to punch each other. At one point the deceased child's mother threatened the deceased child's father with a knife, but he got it away from her and threw it on the couch. The mother admitted to police that she accidentally struck the deceased child's older sibling when she was swinging back to punch the father. The mother reported that the blood drops on the floor and her shirt were from the sibling. The deceased child's sibling was observed to have an older bruise to his face as well as a recent busted lip. The mother and father were arrested for domestic violence and the deceased child's sibling went to the home of a relative. Police also found a marijuana cigarette in the home, within reach of sibling, that the father admitted was his. The father was charged with possession of marijuana.

## **Investigation Findings:**

The parents were interviewed and confirmed the information relayed by law enforcement. The mother stated the incident was her fault, in that she was the one attempting to assault the father and the only time the father put his hands on her was to get the knife away from her. The mother did admit to striking the sibling by accident during the altercation. The sibling was seen and a photo was taken. In the photographs taken there was no visible injury to the outside of the sibling's mouth, however there were no photos of the inside of his lip or his gums to know if the injury was inside his mouth. The father had a scratch to his chest from the altercation and the mother had a bruise to her chin from the altercation. The deceased child's sibling was placed with his maternal grandmother, with the agreement of the parents, while they worked services with the agency. Maternal relatives who were interviewed expressed concern for the safety of the deceased child's mother and sibling while residing with the deceased child's father. They felt it was best if the father was no longer in the home. The mother and father submitted to drug tests. Mother's test was negative while father tested positive for marijuana. The father admitted to occasional marijuana use.

The allegations of neglectful supervision of the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's mother and father were confirmed, due to the domestic violence that occurred in the deceased child's sibling's presence, as well as the drug use by the father in the sibling's presence.

The allegation of physical abuse of the deceased child's sibling by the deceased child's mother was confirmed due to the mother striking the deceased child's sibling in the mouth and causing an injury during the domestic violence incident.

5/23/2016 Initial Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment was Safe with a Plan; there was danger to the deceased child's sibling in the home due to on-going domestic violence by the deceased child's parents and drug use by the deceased child's father.

7/20/2016 Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment was moderate risk level; this was the first case on the family and the primary risk concerns were the age of the deceased child's sibling, the drug use by the deceased child's father, and the domestic violence in the home.

The case was referred to Family Based Safety Services.

## **Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

## **Case Action:**

## **Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

Counseling, Therapy and Evaluation services were offered to the parents and the parents accepted the services.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

The sibling was placed out of the home in a parental child safety placement and the parents agreed to work services.

**Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:****Intake Date(s):****Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:****Investigation Findings:****Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:****Case Action:****Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:****Other Services:****Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

Note: This report was prepared on 07/15/2019 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.